United Nations SSC/14/L.3

South-South cooperation for development

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High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation
Fourteenth session
New York, 31 May-3 June 2005

Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

Note by the Administrator

1. **New name for the Committee**. In its resolution 58/220, the General Assembly took note of the report of the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries on its thirteenth session,[1] endorsed the decisions adopted by the High-level Committee at the session and decided to change the name of the Committee to the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation, with no change in its mandate or scope of activities.

2. **Participation**. In its resolution 54/226, the General Assembly endorsed the report of the High-level Committee on its eleventh session[2] and stressed the need to take appropriate measures to ensure the necessary level of attendance of all member States in the meeting of the High-level Committee, including through discussions of country experiences at the field level, in terms of progress achieved, problems encountered and lessons learned in the implementation of measures for economic and technical cooperation among developing countries.

3. **Priorities in South-South cooperation**. In its resolution 50/119, the General Assembly endorsed the report of the High-level Committee on its ninth session,[3] including the recommendations and decisions contained therein, and reiterated the continued validity of all the recommendations of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries.[4] In the same resolution, the Assembly endorsed the recommendations contained in the report on new directions for technical cooperation among developing countries (TCDC/9/3), which, among other things, called for the adoption of a more strategic orientation focusing on priority issues, such as trade and investment, debt, the environment, poverty alleviation, production and employment and macroeconomic policy coordination, as well as education, health, the transfer of technology and rural development.

4. In its resolution 58/220, the General Assembly, noted that South-South cooperation could have a positive impact on global, regional and national policies and actions in the economic, social and development fields in the developing countries. The Assembly also urged developing countries and their partners to

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intensify South-South and triangular cooperation in these areas, as they contribute to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration. These priority areas are central to the reports before the fourteenth session of the High-level Committee.

5. The fourteenth session of the High-level Committee will follow the format and working methods introduced at the eleventh session of the High-level Committee, held in May 1999, which include the following:

(a) A half-day organizational meeting to be held not later than three weeks before the biennial session of the High-level Committee. The organizational meeting will elect the Bureau of the High-level Committee and adopt the provisional agenda and programme of work;

(b) The duration of the general debate on agenda items 2, 3 and 4 of the provisional agenda of the fourteenth session of the High-level Committee (SSC/14/L.2) will be limited to three plenary meetings and will conclude at the end of the morning meeting of the second day of the biennial session;

(i) A list of speakers will be opened at the headquarters of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Special Unit for South-South Cooperation (fax: 212-906-6429, or 212-906-6352; tel.: 212-906-5727; e-mail: southsouth@undp.org) on Monday, 2 May 2005, and closed at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, 31 May 2005;

(ii) In accordance with the working methods of the High-level Committee, statements in the general debate will be limited to 8 minutes for representatives of member States and 6 minutes for other participants. In order to ensure that this limit is respected, the President will switch on the red light when the time limit is exceeded;

(iii) In order to save time, several States or groups of States sharing common positions may wish to consider presenting joint statements. Delegations wishing to have statements circulated to all participants are requested to provide 300 copies to the secretariat, which will arrange for their circulation in the language or languages received;

(c) In order to make the debate interactive, the President will request the Director to respond, from time to time, as appropriate, to observations and suggestions made by delegations during the debate and will subsequently invite comments from the floor, either on the Director's response or on the issues raised in the statements of respective delegations;

(d) An additional feature of the High-level Committee's deliberations is a thematic discussion, including presentations by various experts on the selected theme. This format is designed to stimulate interactive exchanges among delegations and between delegations and the secretariat. The theme for the fourteenth session of the Committee is entitled "The role of South-South cooperation in achieving the Millennium Development Goals". The recommendations emanating from the thematic discussion will also be incorporated in the report of the Committee and, as appropriate, reflected in its decisions;

(e) The biennial session will be scheduled for a duration of four days prior to the annual session of the UNDP/United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

Executive Board. In conformity with the arrangements set out above, the general debate will be conducted in plenary meetings on 31 May and 1 June 2005;

(f) In accordance with the views and suggestions expressed during the debate, the Working Group will meet as of the third working day of the session to elaborate draft decisions and recommendations.

6. **Programme of work**. The annex to the present note contains a tentative programme of work for the session. The Committee may wish to decide that, once the general debate and the thematic discussion in plenary meetings are concluded, and if sufficient meeting time remains, the Working Group be convened immediately thereafter, thereby ensuring full utilization of the available conference services.

7. All meetings will be scheduled from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. In view of the limited time and services at the Committee's disposal, it is important that all meetings start promptly at the scheduled time. In an effort to make the best use of all services and in line with the practice of the General Assembly and other bodies, it is also suggested that, for the current session, the Committee waive the stipulation in rule 16 of its rules of procedure (TCDC/2/Rev.1) that the President may declare a meeting open and permit the debate to proceed when representatives of at least one third of the States participating are present.

8. Rule 10 of the Committee's rules of procedure stipulates that its officers are the President, three Vice-Presidents and a Rapporteur. The Working Group may wish to follow the practice of previous sessions whereby the Vice-President presiding over the Working Group would serve as its Chairman-cum-Rapporteur. Based on previous practice, and taking into account General Assembly decision 33/417 on the organization of the work of United Nations bodies, it is urged that the regional groups start consultations on the nomination of candidates to fill those elective posts well in advance of the organizational meeting, with a view to agreeing on a slate of candidates equal to the number of positions to be filled, thus allowing all officers of the Committee to be elected by acclamation and dispensing with the requirement for secret balloting.

Notes

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 39* (A/58/39).

[2] Ibid., *Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 39* (A/54/39).

[3] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 39* (A/50/39).

[4] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, Buenos Aires, 30 August-12 September 1978* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.78.II.A.11 and corrigendum), chap. I.

Annex

Tentative schedule of work

A. Plenary meetings

Tuesday 31 May 2005		*Wednesday 1 June 2005*		*Thursday 2 June 2005*		*Friday 3 June 2005*	
a.m.	*p.m.*	*a.m.*	*p.m.*	*a.m.*	*p.m.*	*a.m.*	*p.m.*
Opening of the session (item 1) General debate and review of progress made in implementing the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, the new directions strategy for technical cooperation among developing countries and the decisions of the High-level Committee (item 2) Consideration of reports of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme: (a) Implementation by the United Nations development system of the guidelines for the review of policies and procedures concerning technical cooperation among developing countries; (b) Management and use of the resources for the promotion of South-South cooperation; (c) Organizational and supportive arrangements for South-South cooperation (item 3)	Items 2 and 3 (*continued*)	Items 2 and 3 (*concluded*)	Thematic discussion on the theme "The role of South-South cooperation in achieving the Millennium Development Goals" (item 4) Other matters (item 7)	Other matters (item 7)	-	-	Adoption of the report of the working group (item 5) Approval of the provisional agenda for the fifteenth session of the High-level Committee (item 6) Adoption of the report of the High-level Committee on its fourteenth session (item 8)

B. Working Group

Thursday 2 June 2005		*Friday 3 June 2005*	
a.m.	*p.m.*	*a.m.*	*p.m.*
Election of Rapporteur	Items 2, 3 and 4 (*continued*)	Items 2, 3 and 4 (*concluded*)	-
Organization of work	Draft decision	Approval of all draft decisions	-
Review of progress made in implementing the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, the new directions strategy for technical cooperation among developing countries and the decisions of the High-level Committee (item 2)			
Consideration of reports of the Administrator (item 3)			
Draft decision			